

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the Application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the drawings filed June 25, 2003, and approving the same.

The Examiner objected to a misspelling of a word on page 7 of the Specification. The relevant paragraph of the Specification is amended and therefore the objection should now be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,479). This rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 6 require, *inter alia*, extracting setting information from cell data and rewriting setting information in the concentrators.

Watanabe discloses a system of controlling miscellaneous remote devices associated with an exchange. In particular, Watanabe discloses that: (1) A “control” remote device 4M controls a number of other remote devices 4 via data written in certain control cells. (2) The control remote device 4M with a VCC (Vertical Channel Control) table 42M is used for transmitting cells to other remote devices 4. Thus, the VCC table lists other remote devices to which cells are transmitted. (3) Some control information cells are tagged by adding an identifier to them, to show that the control cell includes remote device control data.

Watanabe does not disclose or suggest rewriting setting information in the concentrators, as *inter alia*, required by independent claims 1 and 6. That is, Watanabe discloses manipulation of certain control cells, not rewriting setting information in a concentrator. Further, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest rewriting setting information in the concentrators based on setting information extracted from cell data, as further required by claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1 and 6.

The Examiner cites Watanabe col. 9, lines 9-14 and alleges that Watanabe discloses rewriting setting information in the concentrators. The cited passage states that signal processing unit 42 includes VCC tables used to convert virtual path information or virtual channel information or to attach a routing tag to a control cell. Thus, the VCC tables are part of the signal processing unit 42 that manipulates a control cell, not for being rewritten with setting information.

Claims 2-3 and 7-8 depend from independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and thus incorporate all the novel and nonobvious features thereof. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 6 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Claims 3 and 8

Moreover, claims 3 and 8 require, *inter alia*, that the content of the cell filter (cell filter table, per claim 8) of the concentrator be rewritten by the setting information which is extracted from the cell data, the cell filter configured to distribute a cell for each subscriber.

Watanabe does not disclose or suggest cell filter entry associated with a subscriber of the network. Thus, Watanabe is incapable of disclosing or suggesting a cell filter configured to distribute a cell for each subscriber, as *inter alia*, claimed in claims 3 and 8. Since Watanabe does not disclose or suggest cell filter contents associated with a subscriber, Watanabe is incapable of disclosing or suggesting that the content of the cell filter (cell filter table, per claim 8) of the concentrator be rewritten. Clearly, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest that the cell filter of the concentrator be rewritten by setting information which is extracted from the cell data. Therefore, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of claims 3 and 8.

The Examiner alleges that it is inherent that cell filter information will be used by the VCC for control setup, as allegedly shown in Figs. 14 and 15. However, Watanabe Fig. 14 and 15 show communication between remote devices, signal devices and the call processor. Watanabe does not disclose or suggest a cell filter used for distributing a cell to a subscriber or the other features of claims 3 and 8 above-discussed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

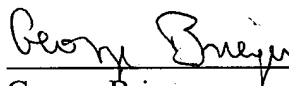
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Application No. 09/332,996

Q54651

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



George Brieger
Registration No. 52,652

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 4, 2003